

removal of the Gasserian ganglion (p. 42) which has, probably, never been performed since the Hartley-Krause method has become public property. (1893.)

The author has omitted mention of brain-tumor, operations upon the posterior fossa of the skull, physiologic extirpation of the Gasserian ganglion, the hypophysis, the cervical lymph-nodes, blood-vessel suture, aneurysm and skin-grafting.

The book may be of some value for trained surgeons desiring a handy reference volume, and perhaps for students in a course in operative surgery under an instructor's eye; but it is questionable whether a book which, in describing Bassini's operation for inguinal hernia (p. 466-7) states that "In its upper part the incision should be deepened until the fibres of the aponeurosis of the external oblique are plainly visible. The fingers are then introduced into the upper, deeper part of the incision, and it is torn open down to its lower end," is a safe one to place in the hands of our medical students. S. H.

Preparatory and After Treatment in Operative Cases.

By H. A. Haubold, M. D. Publishers, D. Appleton & Co.

This is a book of six hundred and fifty pages, covering a subject the substance of which could be clearly and concisely written in a book of from fifty to a hundred pages. In order to take up space we note many illustrations which are beautiful enough to look at, but are without any special value. We are shown Kelly pads, sponges, beds, collapsible tubes for lubricants, rectal tubes, several pages of needles, etc. And while the author states that his main object in writing the book is for the general practitioner in the country, still his descriptions are for a well equipped hospital in a city.

Again he would lead us to think that there is a continual petty jealousy existing between the surgeon and the internist, and he thinks that this feeling can be eliminated by the surgeon permitting the internist to have full charge of the patient from the time that the patient has left the operating-room. This I believe to be a dangerous suggestion and one that cannot help but cause complications. The family naturally hold the surgeon responsible for the result of the operation, and he should therefore insist on having absolute charge. Haubold also advises giving a half grain of morphia hypodermically for the relief of thirst, a very dangerous and unnecessary practice. J. S.

Essentials of Laboratory Diagnosis. By Francis Ashley Faught, M. D. Publishers, F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.

This book aims to present in a concise manner the fundamental methods of laboratory diagnosis. The effort is made to present them without unnecessary detail, and the more cumbersome and elaborate methods are omitted altogether. In the main the author has succeeded fairly well. The field is covered quite fully, following the plan laid down in the larger works. With the actual description of methods of work and the gross and microscopic appearance of various objects but little fault can be found. The subject matter, however, is badly mixed up in various places. For example, the first chapter deals with the microscope and its use, and in it are several pages devoted to the examination of urinary sediment and of the blood, matters that should be relegated to their respective chapters. Again under the subject of bacteriological examination of the blood and the making of blood culture are paragraphs on the malarial parasite and the spirillum of relapsing fever.

There is a decided disproportion in the amount of space devoted to various topics. For example, twenty-three pages are given to the subject of blood pressure. It is doubtful if this subject should receive any discussion in a manual of laboratory diagnosis; certainly not the elaborate discussion here devoted to it. Again the subject of the estimation

of peptic activity is entered into quite fully. While this is a matter of real interest, its practical importance is as yet too small to call for such an elaborate discussion. And so all through the book one gets the impression of lack of balance.

Illustrations are few and not always timely. It would be far more instructive to beginners to omit pictures of an autoclave, an Arnold sterilizer and a Westphal balance, for example, and give a good chart of the microscopic picture of stained blood films. In general it may be said that the book needs good editing. H. A.

Surgical After-Treatment. By L. R. S. Crandon, M. D. Publisher, W. B. Saunders.

As might well be expected, an attempt to fill nearly eight hundred pages on a subject such as this one has proven to be a failure. There must of necessity be a large number of useless illustrations and numerous repetitions, as well as a wandering away from the subject itself.

In chapter thirteen, under the heading of Gavage and Other Forms of Artificial Feeding, the author recommends as the simplest method of nasal feeding the pouring in of the fluid from a spoon into the nostril. This I believe to be bad practice, as it is much more surgical, cleaner and easier for both patient and doctor to introduce a soft catheter through the nostril and feed the patient through it.

In chapter fourteen the author fails to mention the use of quinin both as a prophylactic and curative agent in the so-called "catheter fever."

The chapter on drainage is very good.

In the treatment of erysipelas the use of the anti-streptococcic serum is not mentioned. As an illustration of how hard it is to keep to the subject-matter of this book, we might call attention to the chapter on preparatory treatment. J. S.

Hygiene and Morality. A Manual for Nurses and Others, Giving an Outline of the Medical, Social and Legal Aspects of the Venereal Diseases. By Lavinia L. Dock, R. N. Publishers, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

In this little book, a much-discussed subject is tactfully and skillfully handled by a thoughtful and experienced woman. Though written especially for nurses, it may well be read with interest and profit by all who are interested in the welfare of humanity.

Miss Dock first gives a clear, concise and accurate description of the venereal diseases, which should be studied in all training schools for nurses. She lays the spread of venereal diseases at the door of prostitution, and then details the failure of modern systems of police control to eliminate them. Lastly, the author discusses her plan for their prevention, claiming that they will be eradicated only when prostitution will disappear. To accomplish this, two factors are necessary: first, an active campaign of education, teaching the masses the meaning and origin of syphilis and gonorrhea; second, the granting of suffrage to women, they alone being able to legally and socially uplift and protect their sex.

Especially to be commended is the insertion of the bibliography. R. L. A.

The Practical Medicine Series. Vol. II, General Surgery. Edited by John B. Murphy. The Year Book Publishing Company, Chicago, 1910.

The present well-illustrated volume of 615 concisely written pages is far superior to those of previous years, and will be found very serviceable as an index to current surgical literature. The editor's introduction contains a deal of timely and suggestive statements.